GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:363
ANSWERED ON:08.04.2003
INDO-FRENCH SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION
BHUPENDRASINH PRABHATSINH SOLANKI

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and France are contemplating to boost the scientific cooperation;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action in this regard so far; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINIS OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) to (d) - A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT AS REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 363 DUE ANSWER ON 8.04.2003 REGARDING `INDO-FRENCH SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION`

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b), (c) & (d) The Inter-Governmental scientific cooperation between India and France has been successfully going on for about 25 years under the umbrella of Agreement for Cooperation in the fields of Science & Technology between India and France concluded on 18 July 1978 at New Delhi. Scientific Exchanges between India and France have intensified during this period and presently collaboration is ongoing in several multi-disciplinary areas across many scientific institutions in India and France.

The Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research (IFCPAR) jointly established by the Government of India and the Government of France in 1987 at Delhi, is the main instrument for promoting collaborative research by the scientists of two countries in Fundamental as well as Applied Scientific fields.

Besides this, agencies like DBT, ISRO, CSIR and ICMR have also entered into arrangements for cooperation with counterpart French scientific agencies.

For further strengthening the existing scientific cooperation, a Programme of Cooperation (POC) in Science & Technology between the Government of India and Government of France for the period 2003-2005 was signed on 16th March, 2003 in New Delhi. The Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of France are the Coordinating Agencies for implementation of the POC on behalf of Indian and French side respectively. The POC provides for cooperation in Basic and Applied Sciences, Technology and Engineering, Research and Development, Interaction with Industry, etc. The modes of cooperation envisaged in the POC are exchange visits of scientists, researchers, experts and trainees; organization of joint workshops and seminars; training of young Indian scientists; implementation of joint research projects, etc.